

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: January 29- February 4, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights:

2/1: Bradley conducted a routine monitoring flight in western Montana.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

2/3: WS killed a wolf in the Big Hole completing the management action on the Twin Lakes pack.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

2/2: Lance gave a presentation to Butte Kiwanis. Approximately 15 people attended.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

OTHER UPDATES:

The 2010 Interagency Annual Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Report for the NRM DPS will be available in early March 2011 on-line at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov> . The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks section of the annual wolf report will also available on-line on its websites at <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/management/wolf/default.html>. The annual wolf report is composed of five Sections: 1) Montana; 2) Wyoming; 3) Idaho; 4) USFWS overview of dispersal, funding, litigation, and relevant publications; and 5) Tables and Figures of wolf population statistics and wolf depredations.

Information about Oregon wolves can be viewed at:

www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves

Information about Washington wolves can be viewed at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/

Litigation: On January 28, 2011, the Missoula Federal District Court (Defenders of Wildlife et al v. Hall et al, 9:08-cv-00014-DWM) issued an order that vacated the February 4, 2010 oral arguments in a case over a provision of the 2008 experimental rules that allowed states and tribes to remove wolves in areas where wolf predation was having an unacceptable impact on a ungulate herd. The court also ordered the Government and environmental Plaintiffs to supply information to the court showing why the court has any further jurisdiction in the case because there might not be a valid 10(j) rule. The Court asked for information whether a 10(j) area could still exist since the experimental population wolves and the endangered wolves population now mix and interbreed. Briefs are due to the Court February 22, 2011.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.